



ILLINOIS HOMELAND SECURITY UPDATE November 13, 2001

George H. Ryan
GOVERNOR

Matt Bettenhausen
Homeland Security Director

The Governor's Homeland Security Regional Training Seminars were presented this week in Carbondale, Wheaton, South Holland and Milan. The seminars are being presented to provide an overview of terrorism preparedness in Illinois and to answer questions from the public and local first responders. Seven sessions have been presented so far. A total of 16 sessions will eventually be conducted around the state, with sessions being held the week of November 11 at the dates and times listed below. Information on future sessions can be found on the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) web site (www.state.il.us/lema). Reservations to attend a session may be made by calling 1-800-247-5010.

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Location</u>
November 13, 2001 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Grayslake 19351 W. Washington	College of Lake Co. Main Stage
November 14, 2001 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Rockford 700 W. Riverside Blvd.	Cliffbreakers Conference Center
November 15, 2001 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Chicago 2301 S. Lake Shore Dr.	McCormick Place Room S. 102
November 16, 2001 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Collinsville #1 Gateway Drive	Gateway Center LaSalle Room

The American Red Cross (ARC) is developing a series of Community Disaster Education programs to

inform the general public about how they can be better prepared for disasters of any kind with a special emphasis on Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) events. Additionally, the ARC has developed a Frequently Asked Questions document on anthrax for the general public. The document is available on their web site at www.redcross.org

As of November 6, IDPH had received more than 1700 samples for anthrax testing and has processed all high priority samples. The order of sample testing is prioritized by the FBI. All test results have been negative for anthrax.

IDPH has recently received equipment that will enable the department to conduct PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) testing at their Springfield and Chicago laboratories. When installed, the equipment will significantly reduce the time required to analyze high priority suspect anthrax samples. Staff is currently participating in CDC training on the use of the equipment.

The Office of State Fire Marshall (OSFM) disseminated updated protocols to the Illinois fire service for handling anthrax threats. The document was prepared with input from the several fire service organizations.

On November 7, IDPH conducted an internal smallpox tabletop exercise in Springfield. The purpose of the exercise was to discuss the role and responsibilities of state and local health authorities and identify the issues with implementing a quarantine and mass vaccination of the general public. As an outcome of the exercise, the department will develop a statewide smallpox emergency response plan.

Last week, the Governor called members of the Illinois National Guard (ILNG) to State Active Duty status

to serve at nuclear power stations to enhance security and deter possible terrorist activity. Members of the Governor's senior staff toured the Dresden Station and LaSalle Station nuclear power plants and the General Electric-Morris facility to review security measures first hand.

Conservation Police Officers of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Office of Law Enforcement on patrol around nuclear power plants are giving particular attention to any activities that appear out of the ordinary. As of November 7, all of the activities looked into by DNR officers have proven to be unfounded as far as being a terrorist threat to nuclear power plant security.

IDPH has developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Illinois National Guard for the acceptance and secondary confirmatory testing of certain biological materials acquired by the Fifth Civil Support Team, Weapons of Mass Destruction (CST,WMD) during a WMD event or an act of bio terrorism. The CST,WMD is in a state of increased readiness to support local, regional, and state authorities when called upon.

OSFM has developed a comprehensive equipment (vehicles, generators, etc.) and radio communications survey to be mailed to every fire department in the state within the week of November 12. The goal is to gain additional information on the various resources of the fire service throughout the state.

The Illinois National Guard (ILNG) continue to have soldiers on duty to support eleven airport facilities around the state, providing assistance to FAA security operations at passenger screening points. In addition, the ILNG has increased the security posture at selected National Guard facilities around the state.

The Illinois State Police is urging all residents to be on the lookout for suspicious trucks or other unusual activity throughout the state. Since the September 11 attack, the ISP has doubled the number of truck inspections throughout the state, with about 1,000 trucks being inspected of which nearly 200 were hauling hazardous materials. Unusual activity should be reported to the nearest police agency.

IDOT-Aeronautics participated in training of flight instructors on the status of temporary flight restrictions (TARS) during a session at the statewide flight instructor refresher course at Rantoul on November 3, 2001. Flight instructors have been asked to help to educate the pilot community on current airspace restrictions. IDOT-A is working with the FAA to determine which airports, restricted landing areas and heliports are adversely affected by the TARS.

IEPA Bureau of Water is preparing a compact disc with critical information on public water supply for use during an emergency. The IEPA is also in the process of preparing a guidance document for small public water supplies to perform security assessments and emergency operating plans at their facilities. Technical assistance will also be made available once the guidance document is released.

The DNR Conservation Police Marine Unit is coordinating Lake Michigan patrols with the US Coast Guard and the Chicago P.D. Marine Unit to provide patrol coverage along the Chicago lake front.

Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) Energy Division hosted a utility / infrastructure owner meeting to discuss issues with facility and information security and communications.

The Department of Corrections has added higher security measures to the outer perimeter of each of their facilities. All facilities have strengthened their abilities to screen for contraband entering through the

use of metal detectors, and X-ray equipment and K-9 Units.

The American Red Cross (ARC) is the final stages of developing an Illinois ARC Quick Response Team (ART) to supplement the national ART. This team would provide ARC experienced management level personnel, trained in WMD related issues, to be on the scene rapidly to support the efforts of local units following a WMD event. This is particularly important with regard to the special sheltering issues involved following a nuclear or biological event.

The Secretary of State reports there is no significant intelligence as to any threats directed toward the Capitol Complex. Building security in the Complex includes: building entry requires employee I.D.; visitors require photo I.D. or other satisfactory I.D.; and all containers are inspected. Parking lot security includes: passenger area visual inspection; random trunk inspection and inspection of all cargo-type vehicles.

State agencies under the Governor's control have implemented internal mail procedures prohibiting the receipt of personal packages at state offices. Accordingly, only parcels intended for governmental purposes should be sent to state offices. This prohibition extends to items sent via the United States Postal Service as well as items sent through private package delivery services (such as UPS and Federal Express).

DNR's Blasting and Explosives Unit conducted a review of all explosive magazine certificate holders in order to determine compliance with the explosive license exemption requirement contained in the Illinois Explosives Act.

State agencies under the Governor's control are reviewing the statutes and regulations which they

administer for any possible legislation change to provide whatever authority is necessary to handle situations in a terrorist or emergency event.